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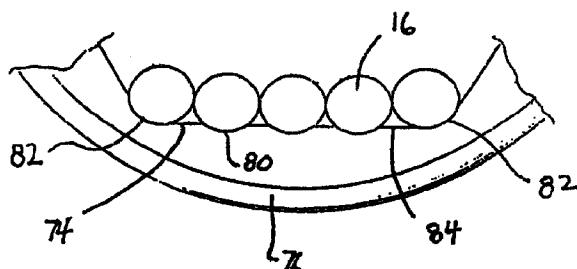
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### (54) Self forming socket

(57) A self-forming socket having a plurality of retractable pins (16) bundled in parallel within a housing (20). The bundled pins may displace longitudinally and are biased by spring force away from a frame (20) on which the pins are slidably held. A spacer pin (30) may be positioned at the centre of the socket and is similarly biased away from the frame under spring force. When the socket is forced over a fastener, nut, or bolt head, groups of pins are pushed inwards towards the frame and into the housing thereby conforming the pins to the contours of the fastener. Each pin has a circular cross-section and the interior walls of the housing containing the bundled pins has a hexagonal shape and does not contain any right angles. The pins are packed in a hexagonal arrangement.

FIG. 10





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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)						
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim							
X	GB 2 240 058 A (COLE ADRIAN THOMAS) 24 July 1991 * page 2, line 5 - line 11 * * page 2, line 25 - line 27; figures * ---	1	B25B13/10						
A	US 3 698 267 A (DENNEY JON R) 17 October 1972 * figure 8 * -----	1							
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)						
			B25B						
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Place of search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Date of completion of the search</td> <td style="width: 34%;">Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE HAGUE</td> <td>22 October 1998</td> <td>Ris, M</td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	THE HAGUE	22 October 1998	Ris, M
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